

Message Text

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ACTION VOE-00

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P 071216Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6829

UNCLAS LONDON 00184

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, UK

SUBJ: VISAS: OPERATIONS: USE OF "BEARER AND DEPENDENTS
NAMED IN PASSPORT" STAMP

REF: LONDON 524 OF JAN 22, 1970; STATE 15713 OF FEB 3,
1970; LONDON 1063 OF FEB 9, 1970, 22 CFR 41.124
(D)(1); AND LONDON 12487 OF OCT 26, 1973

1. WHEN THE EMBASSY RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION TO USE THE
STAMP "BEARER" AND "BEARER AND DEPENDENTS NAMED IN
PASSPORT" IN PLACE OF WRITING THE NAMES OF VISA RECIP-
IENTS (REFTEL STATE 15713) WE INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT,
IN RESPONSE TO ITS INQUIRY, THAT FOR THE TIME BEING
WE INTENDED TO USE THIS PROCEDURE FOR UNITED KINGDOM

PASSPORT HOLDERS ONLY (REFTEL LONDON 1063). THE USE OF
THE STAMPS HAS PROVED TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL TIMESAVER IN
THE VISA ISSUING PROCESS AND ONLY WITH THE INTRODUCTION
OF SUCH DEVICES HAS THE EMBASSY MANAGED TO COPE AS WELL
AS IT HAS WITH THE INCREASE IN THE VISA WORK LOAD.

2. WE NOTE THAT SEVERAL OTHER POSTS ARE NOW USING THE
"BEARER" AND "BEARER AND DEPENDENTS NAMED IN PASSPORT"
STAMPS AND, SINCE 22 CFR 41.124 (D)(1) DOES NOT RESTRICT
THE USE OF THESE STAMPS TO THE PASSPORTS OF THE COUNTRIES
WHERE THOSE POSTS ARE LOCATED, THE EMBASSY NOW REQUESTS
THE DEPARTMENT'S PERMISSION TO USE THE STAMPS IN THE
PASSPORTS OF ALL VISA RECIPIENTS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR
NATIONALITY. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THIS EMBASSY
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ISSUES A LARGE NUMBER OF VISAS TO THE HOLDERS OF OTHER

THAN UNITED KINGDOM PASSPORTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF OUR CONSULAR DISTRICT.

3. WE FEEL THAT THE WRITING OF NAMES ON VISAS ADDS VERY LITTLE, IF ANYTHING, TO VISA SECURITY AND THE TIME SAVED

BY THE USE OF THE STAMPS COULD BE BETTER SPENT BY OUR STAFF IN PROCESSING MORE QUICKLY THE LARGE VOLUME OF VISA APPLICATIONS THIS POST RECEIVES. WITH THE IMPENDING INTRODUCTION OF THE FACSIMILE SIGNATURE, GREATER VISA UNIFORMITY WOULD SIMPLIFY ANY VISA CHECKING SYSTEM. THEREFORE WE REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO USE THE "BEARER AND DEPENDENTS" STAMP FOR ALL PASSPORTS.

4. ALTERNATELY, SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT PREFER, AUTHORIZATION REQUESTED TO USE THE STAMP INSTEAD OF NAMES ON VISAS STAMPED IN PASSPORTS OF COUNTRIES OTHER THAN UK WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN AUTHORIZED. IN THAT CASE, PLEASE FORWARD LIST OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

5. SINCE WE ARE NOW BEGINNING THE UPWARD CLIMB TO OUR SPRING-SUMMER PEAK, MAY WE HAVE REPLY ASAP.

SOHM

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